

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 179999 ACTION FORT LAMY INFO
NIAMEY DAKAR BAMAKO NOUAKCHOTT BAMAKO GENEVA 11 SEPT

QUOTE

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GENEVA FOR CARTWRIGHT

E.O. 11652 NA
TAGS: TPHY, NG
SUBJ: AFDROUGHT/WEATHER MOD

REF: FT. LAMY 1442

1. IN LIGHT OF CONCERNS EXPRESSED REFTEL, DEPARTMENT
WISHES TO REVIEW THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO OUR DECISION
TO SEND METEOROLOGIST TO NIGER AND THE GON'S SUBSEQUENT
DECISION TO CONDUCT CLOUD SEEDING OPERATIONS.

2. THE DEPARTMENT DECIDED TO SEND METEOROLOGIST TO NIGER
ONLY AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF PRESIDENT DIORI'S REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE IN WEATHER MODIFICATION. OUR RELUCTANCE IN
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TAKING THIS DECISION STEMMED INDEED FROM ANTICIPATION OF

THE KIND OF PROBLEMS CITED REFTEL. WE WERE CONCERNED THAT A SURVEY BY A USG METEOROLOGIST MIGHT STIMULATE UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS; THAT THE HOST GOVERNMENT MIGHT SEIZE UPON AN ISOLATED ELEMENT IN A PRELIMINARY REPORT AS AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR-STARTING AN OPERATIONAL PROGRAM; THAT THIRD COUNTRIES MIGHT REGARD WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES AS DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR INTERESTS AND DIRECT SOME OF THE BLAME FOR REAL OR IMAGINED DAMAGE TO THE US. (ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT YET HAVE THE BENEFIT OF BOLLY'S FULL REPORT, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT CLOUD SEEDING IN THE SITUATION THAT PREVAILS IN THE SAHEL COULD AT BEST BE ONLY ONE ELEMENT IN A BROAD PROGRAM FOR THE OPTIMUM USE OF A NATION'S HYDROLOGICAL RESOURCES. THE PRESENT STATE OF UNDERSTANDING OF LARGESCALE EFFECTS AND THE INADEQUATE STATE OF METEOROLOGICAL FACILITIES IN THIS REGION MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT OR MEASURE OVERALL RESULTS.) DESPITE SUCH CONCERNS, AND IN VIEW OF THE DISASTROUS CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE SAHEL, THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVED IT COULD NOT BE ENTIRELY UNRESPONSIVE TO NIGER'S REQUEST FOR WEATHER MODIFICATION ASSISTANCE, AND CONCLUDED THAT AS A MINIMUM WE HAD TO SEND A METEOROLOGIST TO CONDUCT A SURVEY. WE WERE ALSO PREPARED TO SEND A METEOROLOGIST TO OTHER SAHEL COUNTRIES AS WELL IF WE WERE ASKED TO DO SO.

3. BECAUSE OF THE MANY SCIENTIFIC AND LEGAL UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT WEATHER MODIFICATION, WE WISHED TO MAKE BOLLY'S SURVEY PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT RATHER THAN A STRICTLY BILATERAL UNDERTAKING. THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN OUR EFFORT TO GET WMO ENDORSEMENT FOR THE BOLLY VISIT. ANOTHER WAS OUR WISH TO COORDINATE THE VISIT WITH THE WMO'S OWN SAHELIAN PROGRAM. OUR FAILURE TO GAIN WMO ENDORSEMENT WAS IN PART ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE GON'S INITIAL OPPOSITION TO WMO ASSOCIATION WITH THE VISIT.

4. IF THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS APPROPRIATE, IT MAY, DRAWING ON WHAT WAS SAID ABOVE, EXPLAIN TO THE GOC THAT NEITHER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOR BOLLY RECOMMENDED THE CLOUD SEEDING OPERATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER. THE DECISION WAS MADE SOLELY BY THE GON. BOLLY MERELY SAID THAT ON A NUMBER OF DAYS DURING HIS WEEK-LONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISIT HE OBSERVED CLOUDS SUSCEPTIBLE TO SEEDING. HE WAS EXPRESSING A PROFESSIONAL OPINION ABOUT THE CLOUDS HE HAD OBSERVED AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS INSTRUCTIONS MADE NO RECOMMENDATIONS. WE OURSELVES DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN NOW MAKE A RECOMMENDATION FOR OR AGAINST THIS OPERATION. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE MADE IT PLAIN TO THE GON THAT THE US COULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS PROPOSED OPERATION; THAT IT COULD NOT HELP IN THE SELECTION OF A

CONTRACTOR FOR THIS PURPOSE; AND THAT IT COULD NOT BE ASSOCIATED IN ANY WAY IN THE CONDUCT OF THE SEEDING OPERATION. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS DECISION LIES WITH THE GON.

5. IT MAY ALSO BE USEFUL TO POINT OUT THAT THE PREVAILING EASTERLY WINDS IN THIS REGION MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT DOWN-WIND SEEDING WILL AFFECT RAINFALL IN CHAD.

6. BOLLAY HAS NOT YET COMPLETED HIS REPORT. WE SHALL DECIDE ON ITS DISPOSITION AFTER WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IT.

7. IT WAS NOT THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION, AS REFTEL APPEARS TO ASSUME, TO SEND BOLLAY TO THE OUAGADOUGOU TECHNICAL MEETING, ALTHOUGH THIS HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY EMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU AND GENEVA. HOWEVER, WE SAID THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO HIS ATTENDING THE TECHNICAL MEETING IF HE WAS INVITED. BUT WE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE PROPER FOR BOLLAY TO ATTEND AS A MEMBER OF THE GON DELEGATION OR TO SOLICIT AN INVITATION. RUSH UNQTE RUSH

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